

CORN IS KING OF ALL CROPS.

Twenty Per Cent of All the Tillable Land in the United States Planted to Corn Every Year, Producing 2,700,000,000 Bushels, Worth \$1,900,000,000.

By Prof. F. G. Holden. Corn is king of all the crops. Over twenty per cent of all the improved farm land in the United States is annually devoted to the growing of corn. In the year 1914, 105,000,000 acres were planted to corn in this country, producing something like 2,700,000,000 bushels, which brought the growers \$1,900,000,000. For nearly fifty years the land planted to corn has been equal to if not greater than the acreage of all the other cereal crops combined.

Corn is the universal crop. In 1914 the world's crop of this cereal amounted to more than 3,500,000,000 bushels, grown on 170,000,000 acres of land. The United States produced two-thirds of this tremendous crop. In 1866, forty-nine years ago, corn brought the American farmer \$11,000,000, and for forty-nine years since that time, corn has steadily increased in acreage and value, never once falling below the figures given.

Whenever corn is grown, there you will find rich, prosperous communities. Corn is grown in every section of the United States. It was but a few years ago that we thought northern Iowa was too far north to produce profitable crops of corn, but South Dakota is now numbered among the corn growing states—with an annual yield of close to 75,000,000 bushels. In 1913, Canada produced 17,000,000 bushels.

The annual corn crop exceeds cotton by nearly a billion dollars. In 1913 the cotton crop of the United States brought in a total of \$800,000,000; the hay crop, \$797,000,000; the wheat crop \$610,000; The oats crop \$440,000,000. Iowa and Illinois each put in about 10,000,000 acres annually to corn, each producing from 300,000,000 to 400,000,000 bushels.

Here are the figures on the corn crop by states, showing the production in bushels for 1914:

Table with 2 columns: State and Bushels. Rows include Iowa (389,424,000), Illinois (300,034,000), Nebraska (178,992,000), Indiana (163,317,000), Missouri (159,016,000), Ohio (149,440,000), Texas (133,280,000), Kansas (115,956,000), Kentucky (94,900,000), Minnesota (89,046,000), Tennessee (78,725,000), South Dakota (75,504,000), Wisconsin (68,850,000), Pennsylvania (61,446,000), Michigan (60,912,000), Mississippi (60,606,000), Georgia (58,957,000), North Carolina (56,700,000), Oklahoma (56,430,000), Alabama (55,488,000), Arkansas (42,875,000), Virginia (40,341,000), Louisiana (39,273,000), United States (1,705,692,000).

Notwithstanding the immense quantities of corn produced in this country, we imported in 1913, 5,000,000 bushels from the Argentine Republic, South America.

In the Argentine corn culture has in recent years made some very great strides. From 3,000,000 acres put in in 1900, the planting has been rapidly extended, and a recent estimate made by the Argentine Department of Agriculture puts the land seeded for the crop maturing in the spring of 1914 at 10,250,000 acres.

Corn culture in Europe is largely centralized in a group of countries comprising Austria, Hungary, Roumania, Servia, Bulgaria and in the southern governments of Russia. In this territory, upwards of 20,000,000 acres are planted yearly, and the normal yield is approximately 500,000,000 bushels. Over a million acres are devoted to growing this crop in the Philippines, and upwards of 130,000 acres in Japan.

We begin to realize what a great crop is corn when we learn that in 1914 the corn crop in the United States would build seven Panama Canals. The Panama canal cost approximately \$300,000,000 and is the greatest engineering feat of the age. The attention of the world has been attracted by its greatness, yet every year the farmers are growing a one and three-fourths billion dollar crop and we hardly give it a second thought.

The feeding of the corn crop is another important matter. There are about 100,000,000 people, and over 200,000,000 farm animals in the United States, including cattle, horses, mules, sheep and swine, that eat corn in some form every day in the year. Corn furnishes a great variety of feed and food for man and animal. Take away wheat, barley, rice and oats, and corn will completely substitute them all, supplying our needs with meal, hominy, syrup, starch, corn sugar, oil, alcohol, and one hundred and fifty other preparations.

For centuries our domestic plants have been bred for certain purposes, and as a consequence certain parts of the plant are abnormally developed. The selection, in the case of corn, has been to secure more grain, not a greater per cent of stalk. The result is that an ear of corn weighs as much as the stalk under ordinary conditions. When a highly bred plant is subjected to unfavorable or even to normal conditions, the first thing to suffer is that quality which has been most abnormally developed. In the case of corn, if the care is poor, we may obtain two-thirds of a crop of stalks, but less than one-half—possibly but one-third of a crop of grain.

Corn requires much greater care to prevent deterioration than most other crops, since it is a comparatively new crop, as we all know it today, and its characteristics have not been so thoroughly fixed through centuries of breeding, as have those of many of the grains, but for the same reason it is also much more susceptible to improvement if it is given the proper treatment. By intelligent selection and breeding, corn has been improved in the

past few years far beyond our greatest expectations. Corn is yet in the plastic stage of its development, and for that reason it adapts itself readily to new conditions, responds quickly to good treatment, and gives better returns for the efforts put into it than any other crop that grows.

Upon the great fundamental law that "like produces like," rests all human progress. That "poor seed" means a "poor crop" no one will question; but it is not so fully recognized that unless great pains be taken to plant only the best seed, the crop will gradually deteriorate, or "run out," as we often say.

Corn has been taught, talked, preached, printed, painted, demonstrated and advertised in every agricultural country in the world. Thousands are teaching it today. Hundreds of corn demonstrating trains have penetrated every section of the country in the past fifty years. There are corn demonstration farms everywhere. Thousands of corn clubs have been organized, and are now at work. There are corn shows, corn picnics, corn growing contests, and corn schools; but still, with all of the work done by our educational institutions, bankers, manufacturers and farmers, for the improvement of corn, the average per acre yield in the United States is less than twenty-six bushels—not half a crop.

Poor seed is the greatest cause of the poor yield of corn. Just one small eight ounce ear of corn added to each hill will raise the average in the United States to fifty-two bushels per acre, double the yield and value of the crop, and add about \$1,700,000,000 to its total value.

Summarizing the facts as given above, we have the following statements:

First—Corn from a standpoint of acreage yield and value exceed every other crop.

Second—Every place that corn is grown, there you find high priced land and prosperous people.

Third—No other crop can replace corn, but corn can readily take the place of any other grain crop.

Fourth—Corn is put to a greater number of uses than any other crop that grows.

Fifth—The possibilities are greater for the improvement of the yield and the quality of corn than they are in any other crop.

The most important needs for a greater yield and a better quality of the corn grown are:

First—Better care of the seed and more careful testing before planting.

Second—The institution of campaigns of education for the home consumption of home grown corn, together with improved methods of cultivation and the organization of boys' corn clubs, etc.

What is a Bootlegger?

We have always thought that a bootlegger was a man says the Clarinda Herald.

But one of the first copies of the laws passed by the legislature last winter has at last reached county clerk Anderson, and turning the book open, we're stared in the face by a provision of the statutes which says that a bootlegger may be a corporation such as an express company, or a storekeeper, the definition of the Iowa statute of the name "bootlegger" being as follows:—Any person who shall, by himself, or his employe, servant, or agent, for himself or any other person, company or corporation, keep or carry around on his person, or in a vehicle or leave in a place for another to secure, any intoxicating liquor as herein defined, with intent to sell or dispose of the same, by gift or otherwise, or who shall, within the state, in any manner, directly or indirectly, solicit, take or accept any order for the sale, shipment or delivery of intoxicating liquor, in violation of law, shall be termed a bootlegger, and shall be guilty of a misdemeanor.

Not only are the railway and express companies enjoined against carrying liquor, and the town and county officials authorized to seize liquor in transit, but it is made easier to convict the bootlegger by the provision in the statute which makes soliciting the sale equally as criminal as would be the sale itself.

Verily the way of the transgressor getteth harder every two years.

Rain Makers.

In Europe they are still bombarding and piling up the slain; and over here both field and garden are ruined by the rain. Throughout the spring the western prairies have sodden been and soaked; and wheat and corn and huckleberries are swamped and drowned and choked. I view my patch of watermelons, my bosom filled with pain, and knock the kings and other felons who keep on making rain. Some days the armies, spent and weary, are resting on their arms; and then the sun shines bright and cheery, and starts to dry our farms. We take our rusty cultivators, hope stirring in each heart, and try to plow our sweet potatoes, in rows four feet apart. And then the soldiers start a shooting, afar on Europe's shore, and down the rain comes callyhooting for the day, and then some more. Upon the roof the raindrops rattle, they spoil our hay and beans, and when we go to feed the cattle, we go in submersions. Oh, cut it out, ye kings and kaisers, and monarchs high and low. Our spuds and other early risers don't have a decent show.—Walt Mason.

How's This?

We offer One Hundred Dollars Reward for any case of Catarrh that cannot be cured by Hall's Catarrh Cure.

F. J. CHENEY & CO., Toledo, O. We, the undersigned, have known F. J. Cheney for the last 15 years, and believe him perfectly honorable in all business transactions and financially able to carry out all obligations made by his firm.

NATIONAL BANK OF COMMERCE, Toledo, O.

Hall's Catarrh Cure is taken internally, acting directly upon the blood and mucous surfaces of the system. Testimonials and references are given on each package. Sold by all Druggists.

Hall's Family Pills are constipating.

THE HEAVENS IN AUGUST.

An Expert Has Much of Interest to Tell the Laymen.

Astronomy is one of the few sciences which the astronomer seeks to make palatable to the laymen, by speaking and writing of it in a manner that is intelligible to the masses of the people who are not scientists. It may be that the science itself makes of the average astronomer something of a poet and therefore a writer who seeks to express himself clearly and elegantly. One of these writes on the August skies as follows:

Directly overhead is the blue-white star Vega, among the brightest of the stellar objects. Twenty-nine light years distant, and that billions of miles.

Great constellation of Pegasus, the flying horse, now clear of the horizon. Planet Uranus, farthest but one from the sun, in position for observation.

Peculiarities of the Milky Way—are there worlds like ours? Watch for the meteors of the Perseid shower.

By C. S. Brainin of the Columbia University Observation Staff.

High up in the August sky in the early days of the month almost exactly in the zenith, is the pride of the northern celestial hemisphere, the blue white star Vega. Shining with a light very much like that of an electric arc in color, it is, next to the great dog star Sirius, the brightest of all the stellar objects.

You should have no trouble in locating it exactly, as it is the very bright star directly overhead. And we may well admire it and the constellation Lyra, to which it belongs, the wonderful lyre or harp of Orpheus who descended into hades and there regained from Pluto his lost bride. To the Romans his morning setting marked the beginning of autumn.

Nor does Vegas lack scientific interest. Due to the phenomenon, which astronomers call the procession of the equinoxes (the slow motion of the equinoctial points along the equator), the north pole is gradually moving in the heavens. Near the star called Alpha Ursae Minoris now, it will gradually move away, and in some 12,000 Vegas will be once in the dim ages of the past.

The distance of Vega from the earth is fairly well determined as twenty-nine light years, the light year being the distance light, which travels 188,000 miles in a second, will go in a year. Again, the apex of the solar system, that is the point in the heavens toward which the sun with its satellites is speeding, is very near to the point which Vegas now occupies, but, luckily for us, in the millions of years which will elapse before the earth reaches the proximity of Vegas' present position that star will have obligingly moved itself out of the way. Therefore, no grounds for worry exist.

New Constellations.

Clear of the horizon now, we have in the eastern sky the great constellation of Pegasus, the flying horse. The three most brilliant stars of Pegasus and the brightest of the stars belonging to the group Andromeda a little farther to the north-east form a square called the great square of Pegasus. The brightest of the stars of the flying horse called Alpha Pegasi or Markab is one of the star most used by mariners for getting so called lunar distances for determining longitudes at sea. In astrology it was supposed to denote death from wounds or fire.

Andrewa—saved from the sea monster by the hero Perseus—is just rising over the horizon. Toward the southeast is the ancient constellation of Aquarius, the water bearer. This is one of the zodiacal constellations, and the sun is in this group in February. It was in this constellation that the planet Uranus was first seen in 1786, though not positively identified as a planet until later by Herschel.

The Planets.

Jupiter, the great planet, is gradually improving his position in the sky and will be a much better object later in the year. Nevertheless one can observe him now as he rises at about 9 o'clock. The best time to view him or any celestial object is, of course when the object is one the meridian or near it; therefore we shall postpone our discussion of Jupiter till a later date. Uranus, the farthest planet but one from the sun is in position for possible observation this month. His position can be seen by reference to the map, where he will be found in the southeastern sky. He will in brightness be equivalent to a star of the sixth magnitude—hardly an object for the naked eye and at best an object of not too great interest even with an opera glass or a telescope. Yet one would like to be able to say that he has seen this planet, as it is one of the two big planets of the sun which were unknown to the star-wise ancient world. The other planet is Neptune, discovered through mathematical calculations.

The Milky Way.

Stretching from horizon in the north to horizon in the south through the highest parts of the sky is the conspicuous, irregularly-shaped band of stars called the galaxy or Milky Way. It makes a complete circle on the celestial sphere, through of course we in this latitude do not see the same portions of it that those in the southern hemisphere do. But the fact that it is a complete circle is important in trying to explain why there should be a gathering of stars so much denser here than in other parts of the heavens. The accepted theory in explanation of this today is that the universe of stars and cosmic matter occupies a place like a flattened disk—like a coin or a book or perhaps some irregular shape. If the earth and the solar system are imagined somewhere near the middle of this configuration and we look out from the inside we would have a longer distance one way than another. Now if the stars are spread practically uniformly throughout space, we would see a great many more and a greater density of stars when looking in the direction of the greater dimension. So the astronomers believe that the Milky way

gives a clue to the shape of the stellar universe.

The galaxy affords a beautiful chance for the imagination. You have before you countless stars in all stages of development. Some are young and bluish white, some like the sun, others reddish and far advanced in stellar age. Why is it not possible that somewhere among the myriad of stars and suns there is some system where conditions of development have been the same as those on earth, making possible the existence of a life similar to ours and from which beings may even now be looking and speculating on that faraway star which is our sun? The mind can penetrate the distances which even the astronomer and his instruments leave untouched.

Meteors.

Watch this month for the meteors of the Perseid shower. These meteors recur every year and seem to come from a point in the constellation Perseus. They are what is left of a comet which disintegrated in the solar system and which had a path or orbit such that it intersects the orbit of the earth this month.

Queer Quirks of Nags.

San Francisco.—Mabel B. Barnes, a waitress, spilled soup on the shirt of Charles D. Powell, millionaire Birmingham business man. She blushed and apologized. Their eyes met. They will be married soon.

Berkeley, Calif.—Beatrice Willard, 7 year old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Leon Willard, is a mental marvel. She spoke sentences when 10 months old. At 3 she wrote. At 5 she was reading Stevenson and Kipling and passed the Binet mental test for adults. At 7 years, with less than a year's schooling, she is ready to enter high school.

Denver, Colo.—Pearl Sharpe Franklin, white wife of a full blooded negro, is trying to prove that she is a negro, so that her white daughter may have the right to marry a negro. The woman's husband is opposing the marriage, claiming the girl is white and should not marry a negro.

Allentown, Pa.—John L. Detweiler and his wife of Skippack township are both deaf. Their dog, however, seems to know their affliction, and warns them when the butcher, the mail carrier or the baker stops at the door.

Clarksburg, W. V.—The 18 months child of Mrs. Harry Wolf, operated upon recently, was discovered to have a frog weighing more than a half a pound in his stomach. It is believed the child drank a tadpole in a glass of water, which thrived on the milk fed the child and developed.

Southwestport, Mass.—Mr. and Mrs. Charles Wing, married for fifty-two years, have spent fifty years without speaking to each other. They converse through a third person on necessary matters. Neither will disclose the cause of their quarrel.

Chicago.—Dr. Susan A. Price, of Williamsburg, Va., in an address, declared that religious revivals, camp meetings and Billy Sunday revivals are fruitless sources of insanity. The women are especially affected, said Dr. Price.

Marmarh, N. D.—While playing on the railroad track, the 2 year old daughter of a section foreman was knocked down by a switch engine and five cars passed over her without injuring her. Her mother witnessed the near tragedy.

Pay the Teachers.

The September term of the public schools will open soon and the teachers who have been taking a respite from their labors will resume their duties. During the vacation months many teachers have attended summer schools in order to keep themselves abreast with the times. And all of them were compelled to do more or less studying to be in condition for their work. The teachers are not paid during the vacation months. They are on duty in a large sense, but their vacation labors are offerings of love. There is an agitation sweeping over the country in favor of paying school teachers for the vacation period; if not full salary, then a portion of it. It would mean perhaps a slight addition to the taxes, but it would be a good cause. Perhaps a topping off of some of the school expense that may not positively be necessary would make it possible to favor the teachers with a vacation pay schedule.—Burlington Gazette.

Notice of Appointment of Administratrix.

In the District Court of the State of Iowa, in and for Decatur County. In Probate.

In the Matter of the Estate of Willis W. Croes, Deceased.

To Whom It May Concern: Notice is hereby given that the undersigned has been appointed and has qualified as administratrix of the estate of Willis W. Croes, late of Decatur county, Iowa, deceased. All persons in any manner indebted to said deceased or his estate will make payment to the undersigned; and those having claims against said deceased or his estate will present them in manner and form as by law required, for allowance and payment.

Dated this 2nd day of August, A. D. 1915.

ANNA C. CREES, 51-3t Administratrix of said estate.

Tuesday as Dr. Hills was going to Kellerton after his new Studebaker auto he met with an accident that might have been serious. The doctor was accompanied by Mrs. Hills and son, Monroe. While driving along at a pretty fair rate this side of Kellerton the car dropped into a chuck hole with such force that it threw Mrs. Hills and Monroe out in front of the car, Mrs. Hills receiving a badly bruised shoulder while Monroe did not get hurt at all. One of the axles on the car was bent so badly that the doctor had to telephone to Kellerton and have them bring the new car out to him and haul the old one in. This is one of the lucky auto accidents and Mr. and Mrs. Hills are very fortunate that it was no worse.—Lamoni Chronicle.

Advertisement for Remington-UMC Rifles and Cartridges for Real .22 Sport. Includes an image of a rifle and a box of cartridges.

Advertisement for The Iowa State Fair and Exposition, Des Moines, August 25—September 3, 1915. Lists various events like 'The War of Nations', 'Evening Shows', 'The Speed Program', and 'Auto Polo and High Class Vaudeville'.

Advertisement for Castoria, 'The Kind You Have Always Bought'. Features the signature of Chas. H. Fletcher and text describing the product as a harmless substitute for Castor Oil.

Advertisement for C. A. McKern, Live Stock and Real Estate Auctioneer, Leon, Iowa. Includes contact information and a guarantee of satisfaction.

Advertisement for Rexall Dyspepsia Tablets and F. F. Bradley, Optician. Includes an image of an eye and text about the benefits of the tablets and optician services.